



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BRANCH: FISHERIES MANAGEMENT CHIEF DIRECTORATE: MARINE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MEETING: RECREATIONAL FISHING FORUM

DATE: 25 February 2015. **VENUE:** Foretrust Building, Cape Town. **TIME:** 11h00–15h15

ADOPTED MINUTES

ITEM	DECISION & ACTION	RESP.	TARGET DATE
1. OPENING / WELCOMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.▪ He then informed the meeting that two members of the forum had passed away and requested everyone in attendance to observe a moment of silence as a gesture of respect.		
2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>Saasa Pheeha (SP/Chair); Robert Tarr (RB); Malcom Grant (MG); Craig Hagan (CH); Judian Bruk (JB); Odwa Dubula (OD); Qayiso Mketsu (QK); Abongile Ngqongwa (AN); Luyanda Tuko (LT); George Nair (GN); Gary Thompson (GT); Stephen Lamberth (SL); Lee Wiid (LW); Hymie Steyn (HS); Aidan Wood (AW) and Tandiwe Siyema (TS/ Rapporteur).</p> <p>A copy of the attendance register with a detailed list of participants is attached.</p> <p>CHAIRPERSON</p> <p>Saasa Pheeha, Director: Offshore and High Seas Fisheries Management.</p> <p>RAPPORTEUR</p> <p>Tandiwe Siyema: Assistant Director: Demersal Fisheries Management.</p>		

	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Wade Theron, Sven Kewarth, Johan De Goede, Clint Lentz, Bruce Mann, Cary Steel-Boe, Mandisile Mqoqi, Mark Beryl, Chris, John Rance, John Pledger and Tamzyn Zweig.</p>		
<p>3. FINALISATION OF AGENDA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The draft agenda was adopted with no amendments. <p>A copy of the adopted agenda is attached hereto.</p>		
<p>4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meeting went through the minutes of the previous meeting and AW raised that the Industry appointed GT as the vice-chair of the forum and that has not been included in the minutes. ▪ After a lengthy discussion, the meeting resolved that the rapporteur would listen to recordings of the previous meeting and amend the minutes accordingly. <p>A copy of the minutes of the previous meeting is attached hereto.</p>	<p>Tandiwe Siyema</p>	<p>After the meeting</p>
<p>5. MATTERS ARISING</p>			
<p>5.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES POLICY(UPDATE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AN reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MLRA regulations have been drafted and the Department is in the process of gazetting for comments; – Public consultation will commence on the 9th of March 2015; – A meeting to present the roll-out plan is scheduled for the following week; – Roll-out plan is a working document; – Once the public consultation on regulations is concluded and comments consolidated, the Department will official launch the implementation of the Small-scale Policy; – Thereafter, verification and identification of small-scale fishers will be done; – Expression of interest will also be done for a period of 60 days; – Ministerial forum is scheduled for the 4th of May 2015; – The Department is planning to allocate small-scale fishing rights in 2016. ▪ The following concerns were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – GT stated that DAFF has not consulted with commercial sectors on matters relating 		

to small-scale and asked the reason for that.

- He also indicated that recreational fishing sector has not been informed of when demarcation of small-scale fishing areas would happen and how and when consultation would be conducted.
 - He then indicated that as per the Constitution every South African citizen has a right to access marine resources.
 - GT also highlighted that the forum needed to know what resources would be allocated to small-scale fishers, their status, how basket of species would be allocated.
 - JB asked whether the Department would only disclose bag limits after finalization of the 2013 Fishing Rights Allocation Process (FRAP) and stated that the Policy did not cater for subsistence fishers.
 - AW requested that proceedings of the meetings be duly recorded.
 - MG asked whether there were any advertised or approved service providers for facilitating or gathering information from communities.
- AN responded as follows:
 - There has not been consultation conducted as yet except for a consultation conducted on an implementation plan which was a high level document.
 - Baskets of species have not been decided as yet.
 - Resources will be shared and an explanation will be provided before.
 - The Small-scale Policy clearly defines what a small-scale fisher is and the definition includes subsistence fishers.
 - Guidelines for identification of small-scale fishing areas will be developed.
 - Two service providers are being appointed and Ezemvelo will assist in KZN.
 - AN explained how co-management and allocation would be done and provided background on small-scale fisheries management including what resulted to the development of the Small-scale Policy.
 - AN also provided a brief explanation on how consultation would be conducted and subsequently invited all the members of the forum to the next consultation meeting scheduled for the 27th of February 2015 at Ratanga Junction.
 - AN explained how the Policy defines co-operatives and how co-operatives work in other sectors and countries.
 - SL gave a presentation on the list of species available and re-iterated that no allocation has been decided nor made to date.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair re-iterated that consultation would be conducted and pointed out that this agenda item was only meant for updates on the implementation of the Policy. 		
5.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF A SMART CARD SYSTEM FOR PERMITTING OF RECREATIONAL ANGLERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair informed the meeting that the Department held a meeting with the Post Office a week before the meeting, to finalize the contract and the meeting was facilitated by Finance. MG asked whether smart card system was part of the contract and indicated that there was still no progress on this matter despite the assurance given in the last meeting that answers regarding this item and the next item would be provided at this meeting. Chair explained that the contract stipulated the product and smart card system proposal was never rejected nor accepted. 		
5.3 REGULATION OF CHARTER BOAT SECTOR INCLUDING THE ACCESS TO ANGLING PERMITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair explained that the Department had consulted internally in an attempt to implement sale of prepaid permits, however, Finance have been delaying in determining fees. He added that the product exists but the procedure on how to bring it to fishers is an issue. MG informed the meeting that they have submitted a proposal on how the smart card system would work and the benefits thereof and they do not understand why the Department cannot see the benefits. Chair indicated that the Department would perhaps issue the prepaid permits through Customer Service Centre through direct sale; however drawback would be that it would not be possible to add commission. GN suggested that the Department should perhaps communicate with the Department of Environmental Affairs and see how they sell their permits. 	Chairperson	After the meeting
5.4 UPDATE ON WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER ZONE 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LT reported that he had not been given any feedback by Mr Fredericks regarding the letter referred to at the previous meeting. He then said that there was an experimental fishing underway in area 7, however, responsible officials were not part of the meeting. AD advised the meeting that he had a copy of the letter being alluded to, however, when he searched his records he discovered that he had several copies of the letter from Recreational Fisheries Services but not the one dealing with area 7. TT mentioned that area 7 was currently closed for all fishers. JD indicated that the Department was refusing to avail the West Coast Rock Lobster Study report to the Industry. CH requested that the forum be provided with updates on catches and catch rates in 	Luyanda Tuko	After the meeting

	<p>area 7. It was then resolved that such information would be circulated after the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was also indicated that Yzerfontein was initially opened for recreational fishers but currently closed and no reason provided. ▪ After a lengthy discussion, the meeting requested the Industry to re-send a copy of the letter referred to above to the rapporteur. 	Judian Bruk	After the meeting
<p>5.5 FEEDBACK FROM RESEARCH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SL gave a presentation on recent research conducted on different species of kob, such as, dusky kob, silver kob and squaretail kob, the presentation covered the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Status and distribution – Catches, catch rates and environmental influences – Hybridization and ▪ Future options for dusky kob.GT asked if there were any published bag limits and TT explained that scientific working group recommendations go to resource management and should there be publications the forum would be consulted in due course. ▪ It was pointed out that none of the members were forwarded minutes of the previous Linefish Scientific Working Group (SWG) since the proposal to have minutes and agenda of SWG circulated to members of this forum was put across. ▪ RT indicated that they have been waiting for a formal request through the relevant Director at the Chief Directorate: Fisheries Research and Development. He then raised issues of confidentiality. ▪ JD indicated that confidentiality also applied to management working groups, but only to certain issues that would be specified upfront. ▪ RT said that official requests for minutes and agenda can also be forwarded to Kim Prochazka. ▪ SL added that the vice chair of this forum should be the one communicating with SWG directly and thereafter share the information to the broader group. ▪ JD asked what the procedure followed by external stakeholders in order to for them to be part of the SWG. ▪ RT explained that the request should be channelled through the relevant Director at the Chief Directorate: Fisheries Research and Development. ▪ It was clarified that the member could always ask for a permission to disclose some of the issues during the meeting. ▪ GT reported that he sent an e-mail to RT requesting if the Industry could attend the previous SWG meeting and there was no response. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RT explained that the previous SWG meeting was of short notice and discussions were mainly about the merits of a certain scientific report. ▪ The meeting resolved that GT would forward the aforementioned e-mail to Kim Prochazka. ▪ HS emphasized that commitments of these meetings should be attended by all the relevant members after the meeting. 	Gary Thompson	After the meeting
5.6 DUSKY KOB/LEERVIS MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TS informed the meeting about the information sent by Bruce Mann regarding this and the following items, however, it was indicated that the information did not talk to the issue. The meeting therefore decided to defer this item. 		
5.7 GREEN JOB FISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meeting also decided to defer this item. 		
5.8 STATUS OF THE MORATORIUM ON SEVENTY FOUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GT explained that a proposal from Border Deep Sea Angling Association (BDSAA) regarding the status of seventy four was tabled in the previous meeting and briefly explained what the proposal was about. He then indicated that BDSAA was awaiting response on the specifics, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Indication of whether the proposal was put forward; – Spear fishing consultations ▪ He further indicated that BDSAA could provide input on some of the issues and would like to work with the Department so as to achieve better objectives. ▪ SL explained that research for the assessment of seventy four was underway. ▪ RT added that a huge part of site selection for the said research was based on the past information on commercial catches, recreational catches as well as early surveys. ▪ GT proposed that a device should be attached to the research vessel, Ellen Kuzwayo so that everyone can see her location. 		
6. OTHER MATTERS			
6.1 15 MINUTES DVD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A dvd on schools angling development in Western Cape Province, KZN and Gauteng was displayed for 15 minutes after lunch. 		

<p>6.2 TREK NET BYCATCH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AW explained that a letter requesting the Department to address issues regarding silver kob between trekkers and anglers was submitted to line and net fisheries managers and was also circulated before the meeting. ▪ AW further explained that as stipulated in the letter, trekkers targeted silver kob and the same species was caught as bycatch by anglers. ▪ According to AW, the letter further requesting the Department to consider amending the permit conditions. ▪ He further indicated that he should perhaps get input from the rest of the members. ▪ MG mentioned that his concern was that undersized fish would end up dying. ▪ TT suggested that interested groups including trekkers needed to engage and deliberate on the matter. ▪ It was also resolved that AW would request trek net catches from SL. ▪ AW requested that a copy of the letter be attached on the minutes of the meeting. <p>A copy of the letter therefore is attached.</p>	<p>Aidan Wood</p> <p>Stephen Lamberth</p>	<p>After the meeting</p> <p>After the meeting</p>
<p>6.3 RECREATIONAL CLOSED SEASONS, BAG AND SIZE LIMITS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TS informed the meeting that this was proposed as a standing item on the agenda and that the Department should regularly respond should there be updates. ▪ GT requested that any updates on regulations be put on the agenda as requested in the previous meeting. ▪ He emphasized that it was important for the forum to be regularly updated of the changes in regulations. He then asked if there were any changes regarding the aforementioned regulations. ▪ TT indicated that there were no new changes, the limits on dusky kob presented earlier were research recommendations, not a consideration, should there be any consideration, it would be gazetted. ▪ Chair requested the meeting to work together as recreational fishing sector is cross-cutting. He then explained that the officials have to be all over the place to make sure that they are up to date with other forums recommendations and are in a position to provide inputs. 	<p>Department</p>	<p>Regularly</p>
<p>6.4 RED STEENBRAS-IMPROVEMENT ON REGULATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GT took the meeting through the proposal and highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – August and September be included in the closed season. September was erroneously left out. Anglers have found red steenbras to be highly active and therefore more easily caught and in roe during August month. – Regulations should be modified to specifically include the following penalties and NPA be notified accordingly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crew and skipper must be held equally liable for contraventions unless they 		

	<p>specifically absolve themselves by reporting the transgression or if it can be proven they were unaware of the transgression. This will avoid the current practice of one person taking the blame and others chipping in for the fine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The main penalty for serious transgressions must be forfeiture of fishing licences, either for a period of time, or forever in repeat offences and forfeiture of vessel seaworthy and launch-site permits. People who commit MLRA environmental regulations transgressions should not be able to obtain launch-site permits under NEMA and SAMSA should not be licensing vessels which commit environmental transgressions. ○ It must be made an offence under the MLRA regulations for fishing vessels to have hidden or secret hatches. All hatches on a vessel should be easily accessed and in open view. Skippers of vessels must declare where fish are stored on a vessel to inspectors. If fish are found outside declared storage areas, it should be regarded as a serious offence. DAFF must consult with Environmental Affairs and SAMSA to make this an offence under their regulations too and it should form part of SAMSA's regulations. Hidden hatches are a common method of hiding transgressions and must be banned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – When SAMSA or NEMA introduces regulations this should be by consultation with DAFF so that environmental transgressions under MLR Act are able to be prosecuted under SAMSA or NEMA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chair mentioned that these were the issues that the forum should continuously deliberate on and that regulations dealing with landings were already in place. ▪ GT indicated that there was no law that compelling the recreational fishers to declare their catches. ▪ GN stated that in KZN recreational catches must be declared and monitored, however, enforcement was still an issue. ▪ It was noted that the last part of the proposal fell under the Department of Environmental Affairs's mandate. ▪ Chair advised that the issues would be discussed continuously. 	All	ASAP
<p>6.5 RECREATIONAL FISHING VENUES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GT presented the Industry's proposal to have all recreational fishing meetings held in Cape Town as most of the stakeholders reside in Cape Town. ▪ He added that it was not cost effective to hold these meetings in differed provinces and that different representatives attend in different venues thus delaying finalization of agenda items and execution of actions emanating from these meetings. ▪ TT supported the above and further proposed that perhaps information sharing sessions could be held in different provinces and perhaps main meetings be held in Cape Town. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chair explained that the proposal to have meetings held in different provinces was tabled by this forum. It was deliberated at length and agreed in principle. ▪ The forum resolved that going forward all the meetings of the forum would be held in Cape Town. 		
7. NEXT MEETING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GT highlighted that it was important for the forum to meet more regularly seeing that there are many issues the forum is interested in including bag limits. ▪ Next meetings were scheduled as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 06 May 2015; – 05 August 2015 and – 04 November 2015. 		
8. CLOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meeting was adjourned at 15h15. 		